The Date is 1779

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By His MAJESTY's Royal Letters Patent.

ESSENCE of PEPPER-MINT.

PEPPER-MINT, a plant peculiar to our own country, differs remarkably from all the other kinds of Mint, in its quick, penetrating ſmell, and in its ſtrong warm taſte, pungent like pepper, glowing upon the lips, and ſinking as it were into the tongue. Theſe qualities gave occaſion for trial to be made of it as a Medicine; and ſo well has it been found to anſwer what its ſingular ſmell and taſte promiſed, that though the plant was not known till towards the beginning of the preſent century (being firſt mentioned, ſo far as I can find, by Mr. Ray, in the ſupplement to his *Hiſtory of Plants*), its uſe has, for ſome years, been eſtabliſhed throughout the kingdom.

General experience has confirmed, beyond diſpute, the great virtues of this plant in cholicky pains and flatulencies, as well thoſe which happen ſuddenly from various cauſes to perſons in health, as in thoſe which are in a manner habitual to the weak and ſedentary; in the Reachings, Sickneſs, Loſs of appetite, and other injuries brought on by the abuſe of wines or of ſpirituous liquors; in hyſterical or hypochondriacal Depreſſions; in the Tremblings, Lowneſs of Spirits, and various Nervous Weakneſſes, which women of tender conſtitutions are ſo often afflicted with, and which the plentiful uſe of tea contributes greatly to ſupport.

Theſe virtues of Pepper-mint are in general acknowledged by Phyſicians: Some of the moſt attentive and judicious have been wiſhing for a more elegant and advantageous preparation of this valuable plant than thoſe hitherto known; all thoſe in common uſe are accompanied with conſiderable inconveniencies; the ſimple diſtilled water, at beſt, is very precarious in ſtrength; the ſpirituous water is rendered by the ſpirit detrimental in ſundry caſes where the ſimple virtue of the Pepper-mint would be ſalutary; the eſſential oil, a moſt potent medicine, is incommodious in the doſing and taking; and all theſe preparations have ſome ſhare of a diſguſtful flavour, joined to the warmth and pungency of the herb: IN THIS ESSENCE all the reſpective advantages of thoſe preparations are united, and their inconveniencies are entirely obviated.

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Beſides the virtues and uſe of Pepper-mint before recited, we can juſtly ſay, by means of this preparation its uſe is capable of being greatly extended; for in this form it becomes an excellent addition to the mineral waters, to prevent weak ſtomachs from being chill'd or pall'd by them: its doſe is alſo hereby eaſily accommodated to the exigence of the caſe, ſo as to anſwer ſeveral important purpoſes. And here I ought not to omit inſerting the ſingular relief it has given in gouty attacks of the ſtomach, and other internal parts, which ſometimes I have experienced to be almoſt inſtantaneous. Its action is indeed in all caſes ſudden: as ſoon as taken into the ſtomach, it diffuſes a glowing warmth through the whole ſyſtem; with this advantage above moſt of the other warm medicines, that it is not liable to exagitate the blood, or immoderately heat the conſtitution. Tho' it is effectual in thoſe caſes where ſpirituous cordials procure a temporary relief, its medicinal operation is nevertheleſs of a very different kind, as appears from its being one of the beſt remedies againſt the complaints which the habitual uſe of the other has produced.

Since the firſt publication of this medicine, experience has abundantly confirmed all that has been ſaid of it: Women in the early ſtate of pregnancy have teſtified the ſingular relief they have had from only ſix or eight drops of it two or three times a day, eaſing them of their ſickneſs, reachings, and cholicky pains; Infants of three or four days old, from one or two drops, and others from three or four drops, in a little magneſia, or ſmall boat of victuals, have been almoſt immediately relieved, when in great agony from wind and grippings, and threatening convulſions. Theſe complaints in ſucking Infants are frequently brought on by the ill quality of the milk of the mother or nurſe: this ill quality is corrected, the Infants complaints are mitigated, and the mother or nurſe no leſs benefited, by fifteen or twenty drops, two or three times a day. Its efficacy has likewiſe been remarkable in appeaſing violent diſorders occaſioned by ſudden ſurprize; ten, fifteen, or twenty drops inſtantly recovering the wonted calmneſs and compoſure of the ſpirits; and in hyſterical fits it has been given with amazing ſucceſs. In theſe, as well as in ſome other caſes, when no liquid can be got down, it will be proper to mix twenty or thirty drops in a little powdered ſugar, which being conveyed with a tea ſpoon to the middle of the tongue, holding up the head, it will ſoon make its way into the ſtomach, and immediately relieve the patient. Likewiſe, in wearineſs or fatigue, from intenſe application to ſtudy, &c. nothing proves ſo ſuitable a cordial, to recruit and invigorate the drooping ſpirits. Variety of inſtances might be given of its ſalutary effects in expelling the Gout from the ſtomach, in reſtoring ſuch as have been injured by exceſſes, &c. in both which caſes the doſe has been extended to one or two tea ſpoonfuls. —— Here ſome very extraordinary caſes might be related, of ſuch as had totally loſt all reliſh for food for ſeveral years; for the recovery of which the moſt approved medicines, bitters, aromatics, with chalybeates and Bath waters, had long been uſed in vain; when a tea-ſpoonful of this eſſence alone, in a ſmall wine-glaſs of water, twice a day, within a fortnight or three weeks perfectly reſtored the appetite, and with that the health, the natural vivacity, and reliſh for the other wonted enjoyments of life. ——In great extremities from Cholicks, without a Fever, forty

drops

drops have procured perfect eaſe in the ſpace of a few minutes: alſo in griping Pains, attended with a Purging, but no Fever, when by long continuance the patient's ſtrength has been nearly exhauſted, twenty, thirty, or forty drops, repeated within ten or fifteen minutes, have produced the comfortable ſenſation of a glowing warmth, and a revival of the ſtrength and ſpirits; the ſame doſe then continued three or four times a day, with proper nouriſhment, contributed greatly to compleat the recovery. It may be proper here to add, that if a little attention is paid to the grateful, cordial, and ſtomachic effects of this valuable medicine, it will be found, by its continued uſe, agreeably to warm the habit and ſtrengthen the nerves in thoſe that require ſuch kind of aſſiſtance; twenty or thirty drops being taken two, three, or four times a day. What deſerves particular notice, is, its great efficacy in promoting Digeſtion, by ſtrengthening the Stomach and Bowels, whereby it relieves and prevents a variety of complaints; it defends weak Bowels, and the whole conſtitution, againſt injuries from wet, ſevere, and inclement weather; hence its great uſe in travelling, &c. taken in a morning faſting, and repeated occaſionally. We have before confidently recommended it in the Sea-ſickneſs; and now, from repeated atteſtations, can affirm it to be therein a remedy of equal efficacy; in this caſe, as well as in reachings, and likewiſe in cholicky pains, attended with a great ſenſation of coldneſs in the ſtomach, it will be moſt adviſeable to take ten, fifteen, or twenty drops in a little ſugar; otherwiſe it may be taken with the ſugar in a wine-glaſs-full of water, or milk and water, or in the ſame quantity of any infuſion adapted to the diſorder, or in the common quantity of mineral waters, repeating it three or four times a day, or even three or four times in an hour upon all urgent occaſions; and in caſe of coſtiveneſs, a ſpoonful or two of Daffy's Elixir, or a little Magneſia, or ſome other convenient laxative, may be advantageouſly interpoſed.

This Eſſence contains the whole medicinal virtue of the Pepper-mint; the merits of which being duly conſidered, together with the circumſtances of its being always of an uniform ſtrength, and ſo commodious for uſe, it cannot but appear to be excellently well fitted for Coffee-houſes and other places of Public Reſort, as by it gentlemen may be immediately accommodated with the moſt elegant Pepper-Mint-Water of any deſirable ſtrength, by giving only from ſix to ten or more drops, in a glaſs of pure water, which may be ſweetened to the taſte with fine ſugar, or capillaire. It muſt likewiſe be evidently a very deſirable one in all families, eſpecially ſuch as are ſituated at a diſtance from chief towns; and indeed, from what has been ſaid, it at once manifeſts itſelf to be admirably well accommodated to the ſervice of the Army, of the Navy, and of all thoſe, both at home and abroad, whoſe particular ſituations may forbid them the immediate aſſiſtance of the ſkilful Phyſician, and the neceſſary variety of medicine. In a word, from reaſon and experience, we are fully convinced this elegant Eſſence will be of public utility in proportion as it can be diffuſed throughout the world.

Prepared and ſold by J. Juniper, Chymiſt and Apothecary, in Macclesfield-ſtreet, near Gerrard-ſtreet, Soho, in bottles, at 3 s. and 1 s. each; and is appointed by him to be ſold at Mr. Oldham's, Chymiſt, in the Hay-market;

at

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